

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS TO SECDEF AND CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MARR KS

SUBJECT: GENERAL JONES MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK

SUMMARY. AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL JONES MET WITH PRESIDENT PARK JAN 8. GENERAL STILWELL AND I ACCOMPANIED GENERAL JONES AND MND MINISTER SUH, ROK/AF GENERAL CHOO AND BLUE HOUSE SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHONG YOM ALSO PRESENT. HIGHLIGHTS WERE EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION BY PARK FOR F4DS, RENEWED PROPOSAL FOR AF BASE ON CHEJU-DO, AND DISCUSSION OF US DESIRE TO REDUCE OVERHEAD AND SUPPORT COSTS IN KOREA WITHOUT AFFECTING US COMBAT CAPABILITY. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT PARK EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR US DECISION TO SELL F4D SQUADRON TO KOREA. GENERAL JONES POINTED OUT COSTS TO USAF AND URGED ROKG ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM TO MEET F5A REHABILITATION COSTS. PRESIDENT PARK ALSO MENTIONED ROK INTEREST IN YF COMPETITION AND SATISFACTION OF ROK/AF WITH F5ES.

2. PARK RENEWED WITH SOME VIGOR AND PERSISTENCE ROKG SUGGESTION THAT AIR FORCE BASE BE BUILT ON CHEJU-DO TO REPLACE USAF FACILITIES IN JAPAN ON GROUNDS JAPANESE BASES WOULD NOT BE DEPENDABLE DURING CONFLICT IN KOREA

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DUE TO GROWING LEFT WING PRESSURES IN JAPAN. HE INDICAGED

THAT THE ROKG MIGHT ITSELF BUILD AN AIR FACILITY ON CHEJU-DO WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR USAF USE; AND, IN THAT CONNECTION, URGED THAT USAF CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE TECHNICAL SURVEY. GENERAL JONES SAID THAT THE REQUEST FOR SURVEY WOULD BE TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO PROSPECT FOR US CONSTRUCTION FUNDS; AND, EQUALLY, THAT THE ROKS WOULD FIND IT VERY EXPENSIVE TO CONSTRUCT SUCH A FACILITY. THE USAF PREFERENCE WAS TO EXPLOIT THE EXISTING ROK AIR BASE STRUCTURE, IF EXTERNAL USAF SUPPORT WAS EVER REQUIRED. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT US LESS PESSIMISTIC ON DEPENDABILITY OF JAPANESE BASES IN EVENT OF CONFLICT, AND GOJ RECOGNIZES THAT US ABILITY TO USE BASES IN DEFENSE OF KOREA IS INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT OF US/JAPAN OVERALL RELATIONSHIP. PARK CONTINUED TO EXPRESS STRONG SCEPTICISM ABOUT JAPAN AND RAISED ONCE AGAIN GOJ FAILURE TO CONTROL CHOSEN SOREN AS INDICATIVE OF JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARD DEFENSE OF KOREA.

3. GENERAL JONES DURING CONVERSATION STRESSED CONTINUED US COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE OF KOREA. HE MENTIONED THAT DUE TO BUDGETARY PRESSURES IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO REDUCE HEADQUARTERS ELEMENTS AND OVERHEAD AND SUPPORT COSTS, BUT JCS WERE OF FIRM VIEW THAT "TEETH" OF US PRESENCE SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED. MOREOVER, THE CAPABILITY EXISTED TO RAPIDLY DEPLOY EXTERNAL AIR REINFORCEMENTS IF THE SITUATION DICTATED.
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND CINCPAC.

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